



CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

1825 Ponce de León Boulevard, #399, Coral Gables, FL 33134
info@cabaonline.com | www.cabaonline.com | (305) 857-7229

Jordi C. Martínez-Cid
President

Amanda L. Fernandez
Immediate Past President

Haydee Sera
President- Elect

Daniel Buigas
Vice President

Diana Arteaga
Treasurer

Candice Balmori
Secretary

Fabian Ruiz
Assistant Treasurer

Directors

Mirelis Castilla

Gustavo Ceballos

Marcel De La Cruz

Jorge Fors Jr.

Patrick Montoya

Amanda M. Naldjieff Abreu

Joshua Padron

Ezequiel “Zeke” Romero

Cuban American Bar Association Statement on the Indictment of Raúl Castro

The Cuban American Bar Association (CABA) welcomes the indictment of Raúl Castro as a long-overdue step toward justice for the victims of the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue shutdown and their families. CABA commends the United States Department of Justice and all law-enforcement authorities involved in pursuing accountability in this matter. This renewed effort to investigate and prosecute those responsible for these murders is a direct reflection of the enduring importance of the rule of law and victims’ rights.

Likewise, CABA independently recognizes the longstanding work and contributions of its members who have helped advocate on behalf of the victims of this unfathomable crime. Former CABA President and former Florida Bar President Frank Angones, together with other CABA members and co-counsel, represented the families of Armando Alejandro Jr., Carlos Costa, and Mario de la Peña in *Alejandro v. Republic of Cuba*, landmark litigation arising from the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue shutdown, in which a historic judgment was obtained against the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban Air Force.

On the 25th anniversary of this tragedy, CABA commemorated the memory of the victims of this crime by featuring Mr. Angones, along with human rights activist and survivor of the February 24, 1996 attack, Sylvia Iriondo, as guest speakers. We are grateful for the voices within the Cuban diaspora who have continued to come together in remembrance and in pursuit of accountability on behalf of the victims and the Cuban people as a whole.

More importantly, this moment should serve as a step toward the long-awaited removal and exclusion of human rights abusers from positions of power in a future democratic Cuba. The Cuban people have endured decades under a regime that has never held legitimate authority over the island. Having seized and maintained power through force and coercion rather than the consent of the governed, the Castro regime and its subsequent figurehead have governed Cuba by way of an illegitimate dictatorship built upon repression, imprisonment of political dissidents, and the systematic denial of the most basic of human rights. The regime’s stronghold over Cuba has been imposed in a manner that is inconsistent with the rule of law, democratic principles, and international human rights norms.

A future democratic Cuba must therefore be built upon a new foundation that rejects authoritarian governance and the structures responsible for nearly seven decades of abuse. This indictment represents a meaningful first step in that direction. The Cuban people deserve a representative government elected in a free and fair democratic process.

Accordingly, CABA stands ready to assist with legal frameworks that support a peaceful, lawful, and lasting transition from dictatorship to democracy—one that honors the dignity and sacrifice of the Cuban people and ensures that the crimes of the past are never repeated.

CABA's Draft Fundamental Transitional Law provides parameters for such a transition, including immediate implementation of core human rights protections, the establishment of an independent judiciary, the prosecution of human-rights violations, and the exclusion of officials significantly involved in prior abuses from positions of public authority. CABA invites members of the community to its June 4, 2026 breakfast, where the organization will present and discuss this draft framework and related legal proposals aimed at supporting a future transitional government in Cuba.

With this critical indictment as a backdrop, there is renewed hope that soon the Cuban people may become the authors of their own future. CABA looks forward to the end of authoritarian rule in Cuba and the emergence of a democratic order in which justice is secured, accountability is enforced, and the Cuban people are never again denied their fundamental rights.